

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of communicating between a handheld
2 computer and other local area computing devices having wireless
3 communication capability, comprising the steps of:
4 providing a handheld computer;
5 identifying a plurality of other local area computing devices
6 having wireless communication capability;
7 creating an identifier for one or more of the plurality of other
8 local area computing devices; and
9 listing each identifier on a display, wherein the list is sorted
10 in order of at least one of distance and direction from the handheld
11 computer.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the handheld
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of other local
3 area computing devices utilizing a Bluetooth standard.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the handheld
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of other local
3 area computing devices utilizing an IEEE 802.11 standard.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the handheld
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of other local
3 wireless devices utilizing RF signals.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the handheld
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of other local
3 wireless devices utilizing infrared signals.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the information
2 necessary to sort the list by at least one of distance and direction is
3 provided by electronic pinging between the handheld computer and the
4 plurality of other local area computing devices.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 choosing one or more of the listed identifiers and sharing information with
3 the local area computing device corresponding to the chosen identifier.

1 8. A method of sharing information between a handheld
2 computer and a group of local area computing devices having wireless
3 communication capability, comprising the steps of:
4 specifying a distance;
5 identifying one or more local area computing devices having
6 wireless communication capability within the specified distance from the
7 handheld computer; and
8 transmitting a wireless message to the one or more local
9 area computing devices having wireless communication capability within
10 the specified distance.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the display is a touch
2 screen display.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless message
2 is transmitted utilizing a Bluetooth standard.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless message
2 is transmitted utilizing an IEEE 802.11 standard.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless message
2 is transmitted utilizing RF signals.

1 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless message
2 is transmitted utilizing infrared signals.

1 14. The method of claim 8, wherein the information
2 necessary to transmit the wireless message only within the specified
3 distance is provided by electronic pinging between the handheld computer
4 and the one or more local area computing devices.

1 15. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of
2 receiving a wireless message from the one or more local area computing
3 devices having wireless communication capability within the specified
4 distance.

1 16. A local area wireless communication device,
2 comprising:

3 a housing;
4 a processor supported by the housing;
5 a memory coupled to the processor;
6 a transmitter supported by the housing; and
7 a display;

8 wherein the processor instructs the display to list a plurality
9 of other computing devices located within range of the transmitter, sorted
10 in order of at least one of the distance and the direction from the wireless
11 communication device.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the display is a
2 touch screen display.

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the local area
2 wireless communication device is configured to communicate with the
3 plurality of other local area computing devices utilizing a Bluetooth
4 standard.

1 19. The method of claim 16, wherein the local area
2 wireless communication device is configured to communicate with the
3 plurality of other local area computing devices utilizing an IEEE 802.11
4 standard.

1 20. The method of claim 16, wherein the local area
2 wireless communication device is configured to communicate with the
3 plurality of other local wireless devices utilizing RF signals.

1 21. The method of claim 16, wherein the local area
2 wireless communication device is configured to communicate with the
3 plurality of other local wireless devices utilizing infrared signals.

1 22. The method of claim 16, wherein the information
2 necessary to sort the list by at least one of distance and direction is
3 provided by electronic pinging between the local area wireless
4 communication device and the plurality of other local area computing
5 devices.

1 23. The method of claim 16, wherein the wireless
2 communication device is a handheld computer.

1 24. A user interface for a handheld computer, comprising:
2 a display providing a list of indicators corresponding to a plurality of local
3 area computing devices with which communication is possible;
4 wherein the list is sorted by at least one of distance and direction from
5 the handheld computer.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the display is a
2 touch screen.

1 26. The method of claim 24, wherein the handheld
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of local area
3 computing devices utilizing a Bluetooth standard.

1 27. The method of claim 24, wherein the handheld
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of local area
3 computing devices utilizing an IEEE 802.11 standard.

1 28. The method of claim 24, wherein the handheld
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of local wireless
3 devices utilizing RF signals.

1 29. The method of claim 24, wherein the handheld
2 computer is configured to communicate with the plurality of local wireless
3 devices utilizing infrared signals.

1 30. The method of claim 24, wherein the information
2 necessary to sort the list by distance is provided by electronic pinging
3 between the handheld computer and the plurality of local area computing
4 devices.

1 31. The method of claim 24, wherein the information
2 necessary to sort the list by at least one of distance and direction is
3 provided by electronic pinging between the handheld computer and the
4 plurality of other local area computing devices.

1 32. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step
2 of choosing one or more of the listed identifiers and sharing information
3 with the local area computing device corresponding to the chosen
4 identifier.